

Hello,

My name is Rachel Goss. I am 35 year-old working mother of two wonderful sons living in Southern Iowa. I have over 12 years of experience working in healthcare providing direct patient care earlier in my career, and have transitioned into mid and senior level management in both the private and not for profit sectors. It is with deep regret that I cannot attend in person this evening to submit my comments to oppose SF-359. As a registered republican and Army Veteran who has served under Operation Enduring Freedom, I have sworn myself as a protector of the greatest nation on earth. Further, I made a promise to defend this nation from all enemies, both foreign and domestic. I cannot in good faith stay silent on this issue which I believe is an attack on Iowans.

I did not give you my personal background to give myself accolades, but rather to attempt to help you understand my perspective. I vote and support bills that make sense, and those that I believe would advance the greater good of our state. I do not vote on issues based on party lines. SF-359 is a dangerous attack on an individual's right to make decisions about their own bodies. I am not asking anyone to agree with another person's decision to have an abortion; I am respectful enough to support a person's right to feel however *they* want to feel about abortion. All I ask is that you do not interfere with my deeply private, very personal, and often difficult healthcare decisions, or those decisions of others.

As a healthcare provider I have had many restless nights thinking about the people this bill may negatively impact. I think about the person who knew they were not ready to be a parent that got an IUD placed in a clinic. They thought they did everything right to prevent unwanted pregnancy but they still ended up pregnant. What about the child or young adult raped by a family member who winds up pregnant? The person in methadone treatment, domestic violence victims, rape victims, those suffering from alcoholism...the list of concern grows.

In closing, I will say that the House Human Resources subcommittee who advanced this bill should be ashamed of themselves. Tacking on a 6 week abortion ban to a bill intended to regulate the use of fetal tissue is a sad and sorry tactic which I feel was used to confuse and snow voters, at which I take personal offense. The vast majority of Iowans do not support this bill. Any legislator who honestly feels that it is their place to tell individuals what to do with their own body, disregard what the majority of Iowans want, and those who wish to override the federal Supreme Court which already established that abortion is a safe and legal medical procedure, gives me great pause. Iowans are watching and will remember this controversial vote, I urge you to do the right thing and VOTE NO on SF-359.

Respectfully yours,

Sergeant Goss, Rachel R.  
United States Army Reserve Veteran  
Wapello County, IA